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SOURCE Polak, No 22, 1950.

STEP UP SOVIETIZATION OF POLAND

According to Communist estimates, 10,500,000 persons took part in this year's May Day parades in Poland. This figure, no doubt, is exaggerated; it must be remembered, however, that if the USSR can reach a 99.8-percent attendance at her elections, it can force 70 or 80 percent of the Polish population to participate in pro-Soviet parades, demonstrations, etc.

At present, neither priests nor members of religious orders have to take part in these demonstrations. Those gravely ill and certain categories of the bourgeois class, as for example merchants, are also excluded; but should K. Rokossowski, the pro-Soviet Polish Marshall, issue orders for a greater participation in parades, the orders will be obeyed. Officials and workers must march in parades since special agents take roll calls before and after parades to prevent any dropping out of the line of march. The Communist press claims that 3,500,000 of the rural population participated in this year's May Day parades.

Workers and officials must subscribe to Communist papers, or they are labeled "reactionary." Rural mailmen, afraid that if they do not show good results in obtaining new subscriptions they will lose their jobs, force newspapers on peasants. With such methods, two of the main publishing concerns, the "Czytelnik" and the "Prasa," increased their daily circulation to 5,586,000 copies. The communist Trybuna Robotnicza, published in Siask, has a daily circulation of 492,000 copies, and Warsaw's Trybuna Ludu, the central Communist organ, has a daily circulation of 380,000 copies. Besides the daily newspapers, there are weekly, semiweekly, and monthly publications whose total circulation reaches 5,715,846 copies. The Soviet press also has a wide circulation in Poland, reaching 340,000 copies.

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